

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 11:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 607—Homeowners Insurance Protection Act

H.R. 1090—Allowing Revision of Veterans Benefits Based on Clear and Unmistakable Error

H.R. 1092—Extending VA Authorization for Enhanced-Use Leases

H.R. 173—Donating Retiring Federal Law Enforcement Canines to Handlers

H.R. 930—Travel and Transportation Reform Act

H.Con.Res. 61—Honoring the Lifetime Achievements of Jackie Robinson

H.R. 111—Dos Palos Land Transfer



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following seven bills under suspension of the rules as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 607—Homeowners Insurance Protection Act amends the 1974 Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) to require that creditors provide free written disclosures to consumers about cancellation rights for Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) if a consumer must obtain such insurance as a condition for entering into a residential mortgage transaction. The bill creates statutory rights for borrowers to terminate mortgage insurance once the conditions disclosed under the above-required notices are met. It requires lenders or the party servicing the loan to notify the borrower once a mortgage loan reaches a 75 percent loan-to-value ratio (LTV; i.e., the ratio of the loan to the value of the property being mortgaged). In addition, once a loan reaches this 75 percent ratio, the bill automatically terminates any requirement for the borrower to continue to pay mortgage insurance premiums. The new notice requirements take effect one year after enactment and apply to

existing and future loans. All other provisions are effective for loans made one year after enactment. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant budgetary impact. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hansen and was ordered reported by the Banking & Financial Services Committee by a vote of 36-1.

H.R. 1090—Allowing Revision of Veterans Benefits Based on Clear and Unmistakable Error amends current law to codify that benefit decisions by both VA regional offices and the Board of Veterans Appeals are subject to review on the grounds of “clear and unmistakable error.” In addition, the bill permits appeals to the Court of Veterans Appeals of any decision made before, on, or after enactment of the bill on the grounds of “clear and unmistakable error.” CBO estimates that enactment will raise administrative costs over the first two or three years by \$1 million to \$2 million, but in the longer run administrative costs will rise by less than \$500,000 a year. The bill was introduced by Mr. Evans and ordered reported by the Veterans’ Affairs Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 1092—Extending VA Authorization for Enhanced-Use Leases extends the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enter into enhanced-use leases until December 31, 2002. The authority is currently set to expire on December 31, 1997. The bill also (1) repeals the current limitation of 20 enhanced-use leases which the VA may enter into, (2) renames the United States Court of Veterans Appeals as the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, (3) redesignates the National Cemetery System as the National Cemetery Administration, and (4) codifies the fiscal year 1997 compensation rates for veterans benefits that were increased administratively by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on December 1, 1996. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Stump and ordered reported by the Veterans’ Affairs Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 173—Donating Retiring Law Enforcement Canines to Handlers amends the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to allow the head of a federal agency to donate to its handler any dog no longer needed by the federal government for use in law enforcement efforts. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 173 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gallegly and reported by the Government Reform & Oversight Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 930—Travel and Transportation Reform Act includes four measures designed to improve the travel and transportation expense process of federal agencies. Specifically, the bill (1) requires federal employees to use a travel charge card for all payments of expenses of official governmental travel, (2) establishes requirements for prepayment audits of federal agency transportation expenses, (3) authorizes federal agencies to repay employees for taxes incurred on travel or transportation reimbursements, and (4) authorizes test programs for the payment of federal employee travel expenses and relocation expenses. The bill was introduced by Mr. Horn and reported by the Government Reform & Oversight Committee by voice vote.

H.Con.Res. 61—Honoring the Lifetime Achievements of Jackie Robinson recognizes the remarkable achievements and contributions of Jackie Robinson. Robinson pioneered the integration of professional athletics 50 years ago by breaking the color barrier in major league baseball, challenging the deeply rooted custom of racial segregation in America and opening doors for minorities that previously had been closed. A graduate of UCLA, he became the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football, and track. Robinson played one season in the

Negro Baseball League, traveling all over the Midwest with the Kansas City Monarchs. In 1947, Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, where he was named Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player, leading the Dodgers to six national league pennants and a World Series championship. After he retired from baseball, Robinson continued to be a leading civil rights advocate and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He died ten years later in 1972 from complications of diabetes. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Watts and was not considered by any committee.

H.R. 111—Dos Palos Land Conveyance Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell 22 acres of unused land in Dos Palos, California, to a nonprofit group, the Dos Palos Ag Boosters. The parcel of land will be used as an educational site to provide students and beginning farmers with training and skills relating to farming practices. The sale will be based on the fair market value of the land as determined by the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. H.R. 111 was introduced by Mr. Condit and ordered reported by the Agriculture Committee by voice vote.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #9, April 11, 1997. For information on H.R. 607, see *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #8, April 4, 1997.



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